



Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting October 9, 2006 Meeting Summary

Attendees: Arnie Tomac, Glenn Eades, Bertha Eades, Chris Thomas, Bob Berg, Dave Alm, John Hammersmith, Ernie Grillo

City Staff: Chester Knapp, Peter Dane, Joel Pfundt

1. SR 520 Project Grade Separation of E. Lk Sam. Trail

Joel Pfundt, Principle Planner, explained that the grade-separation of the East Lake Sammamish Trail and SR 520 eastbound off-ramp that was to be included 520 interchange expansion project to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety is no longer funded as part of the project. The state's position is that gas tax funding is intended only for vehicle improvement projects, not for bicycle improvements unless it is to replace an existing facility.

- Joel handed out a map, showing the planned WSDOT interchange project at SR 520 and SR 202
- The map detailed where the planned bicycle path through downtown would connect with the East Lake Sammamish Trail at the interchange
- Members considered the proposal a danger to cyclists
- Members support the original design that lost funding
- The City of Redmond is requesting that WSDOT reconsider funding the original proposal, citing bicyclists and pedestrians as a danger to motorists and impeding traffic flow.
- There was concern that the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad might at some later date rebuild the railroad, thus destroying part of the bicycle path at the bridge near the SR 520 SR 202 interchange. Joel stated that the BNSF had given up some rights at the bridge.

2. Bicycle Program Development

Joel Pfundt presented new ideas for overall bicycle program development. These ideas could promote bicycle use in the city by improving parking, wayfinding, safety, and ability to cross intersections effectively with low cost projects. It was discussed whether or not to use Bike Program funding to implement some of these ideas.

- Ideas included:

- Creating a simple way for the public to have a free bike rack built quickly, provided that it follows City of Redmond criteria for bike rack placement.
- Improve Bike Commuter Amenities, including private partnerships with athletic clubs or other companies that include storage and locker room facilities for bike commuters.
- Educate drivers about bicyclists. This could include education for new drivers.
- Improve Signage for bicycle routes and to inform bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers to look out for each other.
- Identifying where bicycles should stop in order to trigger traffic lights.
- Provide targeted maintenance for street cleaning, pothole repair, and pruning.
- Regularly update and improve the Redmond Bike Map by including more information such as bike parking, vistas, and bike shops/rentals.
- Committee members were particularly intrigued by improved signage
 - Signage should display where the bike path goes
 - Chester said that new, more informative signs are being approved
- Committee supported updating and improving the Redmond Bike Map

3. City of Redmond Pedestrian and Bicycle Portions of Website

Chester Knapp, Program Coordinator in the Office of Communication and Community Initiatives (OCCI), distributed a mock-up of the new bicycle website to gather responses and ideas from the committee. The goal of the website focuses on promoting bicycling in Redmond by emphasizing the City's bike and pedestrian friendliness and connectedness.

- Committee members had many ideas about what should be done with the website. They said the Web site should be positive and upbeat and not focus on one biker audience (new bicyclist or hardened biker)
- The committee discussed a link informing the public of parks linked to bike trails as a positive addition to the website
- Another positive part of the website could be to state that Redmond is the bicycle capitol of the Northwest, and here's why...
- Commuter links and family links were discussed, which would help inform each user set more effectively
 - Commuter links could include how to get to Microsoft from downtown, or other such directions to key areas in Redmond.
 - Recreation (family) links could include how to go to parks by bicycle, and possibly how to safely get to school
- An idea to list all cyclist clubs arose.
- The committee discussed adding content to the Web site that would make it easier for new bicyclists (both new to the area, and beginners) to bike in Redmond
 - This could be achieved by rating different bicycle paths by difficulty level.

- Adding a Web version of the City's bike map that was easy to view online.
 - Include pictures
- Committee discussed children bicycling to school, and the shifting views and possibility that different schools have different policies towards biking to school
- Website should address any legal confusion, such as can a bicyclist ride on the sidewalk
- A forum was considered
- Desire to work more on website at later meetings

4. Complete Streets

Joel Pfundt presented the recognition that Kirkland had achieved by adopting an ordinance to require accommodating bicycle and pedestrian facilities on all new road projects in the city. Joel wondered whether the committee was interested in tackling a similar ordinance in the City of Redmond.

- Some committee members questioned why Kirkland should get recognition when in reality Redmond is approaching transportation planning in a similar manner.
- The conclusion was to pursue making a similar modification to the Redmond City Code to formalize what we already do.
- The process proposed for this was to present to the Council's Planning and Public Works Committee before going to the full Council for their consideration.

5. PBAC Membership

There was a brief discussion of how to determine when membership expires and gather future ideas and direction from the group. Generally PBAC members like the way the group was functioning and wanted to continue operating as an open forum for bicycle and pedestrian issues. Staff maintains a master list of projects for the committee and working from that on projects in the past has worked well so Arnie suggested that we discuss the status of that list at the next PBAC meeting. It was also suggested that an e-mail go out to all people who get the agenda to confirm that they wish to continue to get the agenda and other e-mails.

6. Project Updates

- a. *Trail Easement near Puget Sound Energy Property*
 - There was a discussion of how to expand the nearby trail and that there is an existing trail easement that can be used for this project.
 - The trail is proposed in existing plans to be soft surface to reduce environmental impacts.
 - Committee discussed how crucial finding a good soft surface is if the trail is to be soft surface. Some soft surface trails can be used by all types of users, while others can be so slippery that they are not very good for any users. The

committee would prefer that this trail have a soft surface that could be used by all types of riders including bike commuters on road bikes.

b. *SR 520 Trail Treatments*

- Presented that the City and WSDOT are working on additional signage and treatments at SR 520 and NE 51st St to address bike, pedestrian and vehicle conflicts. Since this meeting staff has found out the Microsoft, City staff and WSDOT are also working to address similar issues and NE 40th St.

Action Items

- Send e-mail confirming interest in still receive PBAC notices.
- Provide PBAC master plan list at next meeting.
- Chester requested that committee members provide any ideas or content they might have regarding the Web site.
- Staff will look into what can be done and whose responsibility it is to repair the root damage on the Sammamish Trail in front of the Redmond Senior Center resulting from the Poplar trees.